

## Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, September 15, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

New Orleans, September 15, 1815.

*Dear General,* I was just sending the report to the press when your letter of the 10th instant was Delivered to me. as printing is extremely tedious here and you express a desire to have the paper immediately I determined on consulting with Mr. Duncan to send it [to] you in manuscript. you will therefore receive it with this letter. the delay was owing for the first few days after your departure (as I wrote to you) to an unusual press of business, since that it has been, I confess intentional. I found public opinion so decidedly with you here, and as far as I could judge from my correspondence in the Other States, that I thought any other publication than that of your Defence (of Which I had corrected copies published in all the principal Towns) would be useless and perhaps injurious. I was wrong perhaps in this calculation and still more so in suffering myself to be the judge of what concerned you so nearly, but I know that you will attribute the Delay to a proper motive and never for a moment imagine me guilty of inattention to your interests or your feelings.

It is astonishing how soon the most important publications if confined to the Gazettes disappear. it was with the greatest Difficulty I could procure a Copy of the address you Desire—an imperfect one was luckily Discovered in an old Baltimore paper. I have corrected it and you will find it enclosed.

I am very much pleased indeed with the intelligence you give me of Majr. Reeds undertaking. he is eminently qualified to execute it in a manner worthy of the Subject and that is saying not a little. be pleased Sir to make my Compliments to him on the Occasion and to say that I would exert myself to procure Subscribers for the work if it were

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necessary but that without any Effort he is sure of a long list here—when the book (written as I am convinced it will be) appears it will have a most rapid Sale and will be a source of emolument as well as reputation to the Author.

I thank you very much for the trouble you have been pleased to take for my son. he is very grateful for your Attention and I dare hope he will not be unworthy of your goodness. It is a source of great regret to me that I can not meet you at the seat of Government. I had constantly flattered myself with the hope of enjoying that pleasure, but I fear I must now abandon it altogether. a man who Depends entirely as I do upon my profession for support can not abandon it at Will. your kind offer of service gives me greater pleasure than it would to many who were in a situation to avail themselves of it. I consider it as an assurance of your esteem, on which I place a much higher value for its own sake than for that of any Effects it might produce on my advancement or my fortune. thanking you therefore most sincerely for this mark of Your friendship of which I shall be always proud and which I pray you to continue to me, I can assure you that I have no political views and have been so long abstracted from them, that I should make a sorry figure in any station where that kind of talent is required.

I am happy that you are at length going on to Washington. your influence I hope will induce them to correct the shocking delays and abuses in public affairs here. not a Debt has been paid from the Qr. Masters Department since you left us—the soldiers are obliged to sell their Certificates of pay at a Discount of 25 pr. Cent. and as you must know better than I do not a single step is taking to put this important place in a state of Defence. we are now at Peace and that very circumstance is the strongest argument in favor of its being used as the period for Preparation—the Spaniards are not Easy, and notwithstanding their commercial treaty I am mistaken if the English are. such success as they have had in France is a very bad cure for arrogance and they were tolerably infected with it before. there is now no counterpoise. they are omnipotent in Europe and will I think naturally wish to become so here. our success in the Mediterranean 1 will make the wounds of their pride

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bleed afresh, all this however and more, will naturally occur to our rulers and they will take the proper steps.

1 Against the dey of Algiers.

Do me the favor to assure Mrs. Jackson of Mrs. Livingstons sincere respect and esteem in which I need not say I participate. she accompanies you I suppose in your journey. if Col. and Mrs. Butler are with you say every thing to them that friendship can Dictate. I am well my Dear General. be convinced that of all your friends there is none more sincerely attached by the strongest ties of Gratitude and Esteem than

Your Mo. Obdt. Svt.